

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01876 271251Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SSM-03 /103 W

-----095566 271354Z /42

R 271035Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1876

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, AG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN ARMED CONFLICT

1. ALGERIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CONFLICT JULY 26
CONFINES ITSELF LARGELY TO NON-SUBSTANTIVE ACCOUNT OF
BOUMEDIENE'S MEETINGS IN ALEXANDRIA AND TRIPOLI AND TO REPEATING
WORLD PRESS COMMENTARY ON ENDING OF HOSTILITIES. EDITORIAL
COMMENT PRAISES BOUMEDIENE'S TIMELY INTERVENTION WHICH SAVED
ARABS FROM ANOTHER EFFORT BY THEIR "TRUE ENEMY" AND ITS
ZIONIST REPRESENTATIVE FROM DIVIDING AND WEAKENING ARAB
NATION.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 01876 271251Z

2. MIDDLE EASTERN AMBASSADORS IN ALGIERS BELIEVE THAT,
THROUGH MEDIATION EFFORT, BOUMEDIENE IS TRYING TO
PROMECT IMAGE OF HIMSELF AS MEDIATOR AND STATESMAN AND
THAT SADAT HAS NO OBJECTION TO ALLOWING BOUMEDIENE
(OR ARAFAT) TO APPEAR TO HAVE PLAYED ROLE IN ARRANGING
CEASE-FIRE BECAUSE SADAT BELIEVES HE HAS ACHIEVED HIS

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES. ONE WELL-INFORMED AMBASSADOR
WONDERS IF BOUMEDIENE WILL NOT DEVELOP EXAGGERATED
SENSE OF HIS IMPORTANCE IN ACHIEVEMENT OF WHATEVER
SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN, OR WILL BE, REACHED.

2. AMBASSADORS ALSO MUCH INTERESTED IN SADAT'S
MOTIVES IN CONFLICT AND SPECULATE THAT HE MAY HAVE
MOVED AGAINST LIBYA AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO:

(A) RALLY POPULAR EGYPTIAN SENTIMENT AROUND HIM
AND HIS POLICIES BY CREATING AN EXTERNAL THREAT;

(B) PREOCCUPY QADHAFI AT A TIME WHEN HE MIGHT
ATTEMPT TO SCUTTLE THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS BY
LAUNCHING A SHRILL PROPAGANDA EFFORT AGAINST RECONVENING
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE;

(C) DEMONSTRATE EGYPTIAN MILITARY SUPERIORITY TO
QADHAFI;

(D) EFFECT REDUCTION IN LIBYAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES
AND ASSISTANCE TO REBEL FORCES IN SUDAN, CHAD AND MALI;

(E) GIVE COURAGE TO ELEMENTS WITHIN THE LIBYAN
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH ARE HOSTILE TO QADHAFI.

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PAGE 03 ALGIER 01876 271251Z

4. ONE GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED MIDDLE EASTERN AMBASSADOR
HERE IN ALGIERS "STRONGLY SUSPECTS" THAT THE MAJOR
MODERATE MUSLIM NATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (IRAN, SAUDI
ARABIA, MOROCCO, EGYPT, TUNISIA, SUDAN AND JORDAN) HAVE
REACHED AN AGREEMENT AT CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL TO COORDINATE
THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES TOWARD THE SO-CALLED ARAB
RADICAL STATES (LIBYA, ALGERIA, IRAQ AND SYRIA) OF
WHICH LIBYA IS THE MOST EXTREME EXAMPLE. THE IMPLI-
CATION IS THAT THE MODERATES HAD ADVANCE WARNING OF
EGYPTIAN MOVE AND, HENCE, THEIR NON-INTERVENTION. HAYNES

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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